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BALTIMORE MAN SENTENCED FOR ASSAULT ON FEDERAL OFFICERS

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Lee Johnson, age 25, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced by Judge Andre M. Davis to 10 years in prison for assaulting three federal officers with a dangerous weapon, the maximum sentence allowed for such an offense.

According to the plea agreement presented to the court, a special agent working for the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms & Explosives ("ATFE") and two Baltimore City detectives were conducting covert surveillance on August 26, 2002 in the 1500 block of Argyle Avenue, Baltimore, from a van owned and operated by ATFE. Believing that the vehicle was occupied by law enforcement officers, Johnson and two other men shook and hit the vehicle, and verbally threatened its occupants. Johnson in particular said that he would set the van on fire unless the officers left the area. When the officers refused to do so, Johnson twisted together a sheet of newspaper, opened the door to the van's gasoline tank, removed the gasoline tank cap, placed the twisted-up newspaper into the neck of the gasoline tank, and reached into his pants pocket. At that point, the officers exited the vehicle and arrested Johnson. The officers searched Johnson and

discovered a cigarette lighter in his pocket.

On January 27, 2003 Johnson agreed to plead guilty to assaulting the officers with a dangerous weapon and to accept the 10 year sentence. The two men with him that morning, Rhoman King, age 20, of Baltimore, Maryland and Donhosia Hopkins, age 26, of Baltimore, Maryland pled guilty to the lesser offense of assaulting federal officers and were previously sentenced by the court to prison terms of 4 and 21 months, respectively.

The case was investigated by the Baltimore City Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms & Explosives, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jonathan Mastrangelo and Charles Peters.